



WEARE BOARD OF FIRE WARDS MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2010

****Draft Copy****

PRESENT: Jon Osborne, Chairman; Frederick W. Hippler, Vice Chairman; Ray Eaton, Interim Fire Chief; Steve Roberts, Dave Hewey, Bill Tiffany, Scott Dinsmore

GUESTS: Dan Gorman, Mark Bluteau, Jan Snyder

RECORDING SECRETARY: Sheila Savaria

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Jon Osborne called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM at the Town of Weare Office Building.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Snyder requested that the following be added to the minutes, verbatim:

It was at the meeting of November 30th that Captain of Fire and Rescue, Bob DeStefano, approached Chairman Osborne with what the qualifications were to be on the EMS Per Diem Committee, which he had just learned was formed at the meeting of November 16th. Fire Dept. Member of the Board of Fire Wards/Captain Dinsmore got up and came over to where Captain DeStefano and I were sitting and stated on his way out that "you're not going to be here much longer anyway, you expletive, expletive". He also stated that he didn't want to be on the committee and to let him, referring to Captain DeStefano, be on it, as he stomped out of the conference room of the Safety Complex. Chairman Osborne turned to Interim Chief Eaton and asked him what he wanted to do about the committee and he stated that it looks like Captain Dinsmore wants to be taken off the committee and seeing Captain DeStefano wants to be on the committee, then he should be.

At the time, I initially brought this incident up, I stated that I thought this Board was setting a double standard. Well, I now feel that this Board is not only setting a double standard of how individuals are treated, but they are also guilty of a cover up when a member of the Fire Department, as well as being an elected official, can threaten and swear in a public meeting to another member of the Fire Department and not have any consequences nor even have it recorded in the minutes. Let me explain what I mean about a double standard, especially committed by Captain Dinsmore. IN December, 2008, and in the public minutes of January 2009, Captain Dinsmore was instrumental in having a petition brought to the Board of Fire Wards relative to having Captain DeStefano demoted for saying shut up at a Fire Dept. meeting when a number of individuals who had not completed their required trainings were yelling at him at the same time. Theses individual, by the way, knew that the BOFW was going to be taking action on members who did not comply with 12 hours of training for the year 2008 - they had received

notification from the BOFW regarding the decision to comply with the Sag's for the year 2008 at the beginning of the year and a reminder of where they stood in September. If it hadn't been for Captain DeStefano coming back to the BOFW, the required training hours the Board had set in one of their meetings was 24 hours, and he felt it should go back to 12 because that would not be achievable for many of the volunteers. It seems ludicrous to me that Captain Dinsmore can find saying shut up to be offensive, which believe me, I'm not making light of; but when he threatens and swears at another Captain in a public meeting, this BOFW not only doesn't hold him accountable for his actions- you also choose to cover it up. What I am about to say is not a threat by any means. I have been here to try and get this omission in the minutes corrected to no avail; and if you decide tonight not to include it in the minutes, there are other resources available for me to take.

With that said, it's time that this BOFW recognizes the fact that there is bullying, personal vendettas and retaliation within the Weare Fire Department and that this BOFW has played and integral role in what is happening toward that end.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

Meeting Minutes: Scott Dinsmore moved to accept May 10, 2010 minutes as amended; Frederick Hippler seconded, all voted in favor.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Waiver Approval - Dawn Wheeler: Request to waive fee for transport from scene to hospital for Dawn Wheeler, a Town employee. Scott Dinsmore motioned to waive the fee; Bill Tiffany seconded, all voted in favor.

Sub division - James Donison Tax Map 405, Lot 2.1: The board reviewed James Donison's plan to take one existing lot and separate it into two. Frederick Hippler motioned to accept the subdivision as shown with the stipulation that he come back to the board before any building(s) are built on either lot, and that the length of the driveway(s) are satisfactory; Scott Dinsmore seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

V: OTHER BUSINESS:

Dan Gorman - Per Diem progress report: Dan Gorman gave the board an update on some of the projects the per diem employees have been working on, as well as the overall progress of the per diem program.

Steve Roberts - Discussion on Fire Chief: Discussion of developing a plan for appointing a new Fire Chief. Jon Osborne said the board should think about how to move forward and bring the issue up at the next meeting.

Jon Osborne - Content of minutes: Jon Osborne asked the board if they felt what Jan Snyder read aloud should go into the minutes? Scott Dinsmore felt she only noted a small part of the discussion. Six members of the board voted to have her speech added in the minutes, Scott Dinsmore was opposed.

Jon also said Naomi got the SOG's back from the attorney and Sue is in the process of getting paper copies or discs out to the membership as soon as possible. Copies of the

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Town Personnel Policy are also being made and will be distributed to the membership. Per diem employees will have access to a copy of the SOG's and the Town Personnel Policy at the firehouse.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the board, Jon Osborne moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM, Frederick Hippler seconded, all voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Savaria, Recording Secretary